

THE USE OF RELATIVE CLAUSES AND RELATED PHENOMENA IN LEARNER ENGLISH

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The speakers of the day are Izabela Czerniak and Debopam Das from the English Department. The title of Izabela's and Debopam's talk is The Use of Relative Clauses and Related Phenomena in Learner English. They have a fascinating corpus project going on, and we will learn more about that – as well as relative clauses and similar constructions - in Spremi.

ABOUT THE TALK

We investigate the use of relative clauses and related phenomena in a corpus of learner English. Relative clauses (RCs) typically modify nouns or noun phrases, and sometimes even entire clauses. Related phenomena, which we call *other constructions* (OCs), include constructions such as it-clefts, pseudo-clefts, and existential-relatives. We develop a new corpus of RCs (and OCs), called the ICLE-RC, which derives from the International Corpus of Learner English (ICLE; Granger et al., 2020). The ICLE is a corpus of academic essays written by undergraduate students. The ICLE-RC contains 144 ICLE texts (100K+ words), covering six L1 backgrounds – Finnish, Italian, Polish, Swedish, Turkish, and Urdu. We annotate these texts for over 900 RCs and 400 OCs, with respect to a wide array of lexical, syntactic, semantic, and discourse features. The ICLE-RC is designed to serve as a resource for research on RCs (and OCs) in SLA, language typology, and World Englishes.

In this talk, we present the ICLE-RC, and its annotation framework. Next, we report on our case study on the referents of relative markers of RCs, and their syntactic role in the matrix clauses. Finally, we present the results from our recent investigation of the use of OCs in the corpus.

The SPREMI-seminars are open to all – welcome!

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